

# ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION BULLETIN BOARD

**PROJECT NAME:** Natural Bridges Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Treatment Project

**NEPA LOG  
NUMBER:** UT-090-2006-11

**FIELD  
OFFICE/CODE:** Division of Fire Management/Monticello Field Office

**CONTACT:** Douglas Paul 435-587-1537 or Brian Keating 435-259-2194

**DOCUMENT TYPE:**

Categorical Exclusion (CX)	XX	Environmental Assessment (EA)	
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)		Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	

**PRIMARY PROGRAM (Place an X for all Programs involved):**

Cultural		Watershed	
Fire/Fuel	XX	Wild Horses	
Lands & Realty		Wildlife	
Minerals		Planning	
Range		Paleontology	
Recreation		Woodland/Forestry	
Vegetation		Other:	

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Division of Fire Management, in collaboration with the National Park Service, Southeast Utah Group (SEUG), has been evaluating the need for hazardous fuels treatment in and around Natural Bridges National Monument. Natural Bridges has a visitation of over 100,000 visitors per year, with buildings and improvements valued at more than \$10 million. The area is vulnerable to catastrophic fire due to continuous fuels and a lack of natural fuel breaks. High intensity crown fires are of the most concern because of the increased risk to life and property.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildland fire by reducing the density and volume of fuels in the area. Project goals would be accomplished through a combination of manual/mechanical fuel treatments along with the use of prescribed fire. Mechanical treatment methods would include hand cutting and piling, hand cutting with lopping and scattering of slash, and machine mastication. Pile burning as well as broadcast burning would be used in addition to and as a complement to mechanical treatment. Experience with fuels reduction in similar fuels resulted in a decrease in fire intensity and rates of spread. A reduction in fire behavior would allow for the safe evacuation of Natural Bridges staff and visitors as well as provide a more effective and safe position from which firefighters could safely suppress a wildland fire.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Township, Range, and Sections):**

T. 36 S., R. 18 E., Sec. 32; T. 37 S., R. 18 E., Secs. 3-7, 10 and 12; T. 37 S., R. 17 E., Secs. 14 and 15

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION / OTHER REMARKS:**

Approximately 20 miles south of Blanding, Utah, adjacent to Natural Bridges National Monument.

**COUNTY(S):**

San Juan County

**SPECIAL INTERESTS (Place an X for all Special Interests involved):**

ACEC		T & E	
Critical Habitat		Visual Resources	
Cultural	XX	Designated Wilderness/WSA	
Fire Rehabilitation		Wild & Scenic Rivers	
Riparian		Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	

**STATUS OF ACTION / DATE**

02/01/06: Archaeological inventory completed; planning and collaboration with NPS ongoing; CX preparation ongoing.

**COMMENT PERIOD PROVIDED (Yes or No? If yes, include period dates):**

No

If a comment period is provided, individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.